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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Thursday - 13 April 1972

1. [redacted] FE, [redacted] said he had 25X1A gotten information that Senator Stennis had reached an understanding with the White House to the effect that there would be no Laos ceiling this year if the Administration would cut its expenditures in Southeast Asia to $2 billion from the $2.5 billion that was originally proposed. I touched on this with Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, today. He said Senator Stennis might have made such an agreement but if he did he (Braswell) was unaware of it. He added, however, that Senator Stennis was generally opposed to ceilings and in addition DOD had already stated to the Committee that it thought it could keep expenditures in Southeast Asia at around the $2 billion level. Braswell went on to say that in his opinion the whole issue of ceilings was ridiculous anyway. He feels that the insertion of qualifying language in legislation results in a half-way measure susceptible of different interpretations with subsequent arguments. He said what they should do is to offer legislation cutting off all funds and then let the Congress vote it up or down.

I briefed Braswell on several current intelligence items including: the 9 April Soviet SS-NX-8 test, identification of a larger Soviet TU-144, and a major Chinese program of airfield construction.

25X1 2. [redacted] Left with the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy a paper on the Chinese Communist nuclear test of 18 March 1972 which George Murphy, of the staff, requested yesterday.

25X1 3. [redacted] Left with David Martin, Senate Internal Security Subcommittee staff, a number of unclassified documents on the Versailles Peace Conference which he had asked about and a paper prepared by Lothar Metzel entitled "Detente and the World Revolutionary Process: A Soviet View."

25X1 4. [redacted] Al Tarabochia, Senate Internal Security Subcommittee staff, gave me 17 rolls of undeveloped film which had been taken by the Venceremos Brigade in Cuba which he thought we might be interested in. I will check with WH Division on this.

SECRET

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